

WE CLAIM:

1. An optical element comprising at least one transparent eye-protecting portion comprising a plastic material, said eye-protecting portion comprising:
  - i) a hardness in a range between about 40 Shore A and about 77 Shore D, as measured according to ASTM Standard D2240; and
  - ii) an elongation at break in a range between about 200% and about 700%, as measured according to ASTM Standard D638.
2. The optical element according to claim 1, wherein the hardness is in a range between about 55 Shore A and 65 Shore D, as measured according to ASTM Standard D2240.
3. The optical element according to claim 1, wherein the elongation at break is in a range between about 300% and about 600%, as measured according to ASTM Standard D638.
4. The optical element according to claim 1, wherein the eye-protecting portion comprises an elongation at yield that is higher than about 15%, as measured according to ASTM Standard D638.
5. The optical element according to claim 1, wherein the eye-protecting portion comprises a light transmission not lower than about 85%, as measured according to ASTM Standard D1003.
6. The optical element according to claim 1, wherein the eye-protecting portion comprises a haze not higher than 1.5%, as measured according to ASTM Standard D1003.

7. The optical element according to claim 1, wherein the eye-protecting portion comprises a refractive index lower than about 1.59, as measured according to ASTM Standard D542.

8. The optical element according to claim 1, wherein the eye-protecting portion comprises a polyurethane material.

9. The optical element according to claim 8, wherein said polyurethane material is selected from a group comprising polyurea-urethanes, thermoplastic polyurethanes and thermoplastic urea-urethanes.

10. The optical element according to claim 8, wherein said polyurethane material is substantially elastomeric.

11. The optical element according to claim 9, wherein said polyurethane material is substantially elastomeric.

12. The optical element according to claim 1, wherein the optical element is a semi-finished product suitable for use in the manufacture of oculars for eyeglasses.

13. The optical element according to claim 1, wherein the optical element is an ocular.

14. The optical element according to claim 13, wherein said ocular is a lens for eyeglasses.

15. The optical element according to claim 13, wherein said ocular is a visor.

16. The optical element according to claim 13, wherein said ocular is a protection mask.

17. The optical element according to claim 13, wherein said ocular is a an add-on lens for eyeglasses.
18. An eye-protecting device comprising an optical element according to claim 1.
19. An eye-protecting device according to claim 18, wherein said device is a rimless eyewear.